

Remarks/Arguments

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated March 23, 2005.

Claims 27, 29-49 remain in this application. Claim 28 has been canceled. New Claims 50-53 have been added.

Claims 27, 28, 39, 40 and 43 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by US 3,679,059 ('059). Applicants disagree.

The '059 reference uses a polyurethane liquid material to form a seal in a membrane device. This is well-known prior art and discussed by the applicants in the background of the present invention. Further as stated by the rejection under 103, the reference fails to teach the use of molding. Instead it relies upon a blocking material such as polyethylene putty to limit the spread or penetration of the material into the mesh.

As the standard for anticipation is one of strict identity and as the cited reference has failed to teach the claimed element, it is not anticipatory reference. As such, the claims are in condition for allowance over the reference.

Claims 29-35, 41, 42 and 44 – 49 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over '059 in view of US 4,113,627 ('627). The '059 reference is stated as not teaching or suggesting the use of a mold or injection molding. The secondary reference is added to cure this defect in the art with the argument that the combination would have made the use of a mold or injection molding obvious. Applicants disagree.

The '627 reference shows how to bond a filter element into a plastic housing. It fails to teach or suggest how one forms a gasket in a piece of membrane or a screen per se. It requires that one have a preformed support 77 to which the filter is bonded. This unlike the present invention or the

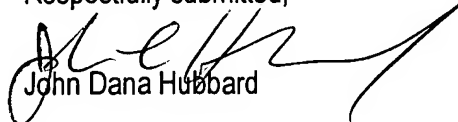
primary reference. There is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to consider the combination of the two references as suggested by the office action as the primary reference does not have a preformed base against which a filter is sealed and it uses a blocking material to prevent the spread of a curable liquid material. There is no teaching or suggestion as to how one would use a mold of the secondary reference in forming the gasket of the first. As such it is believed the combination of the references is not supported by their inherent teachings and would not have made the present claims obvious from their combination.

Claims 36-38 have been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten as independent claims including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claims 50-52 correspond to claims 36-38 rewritten as independent claims.

New claim 53 is similar to claim 27 but add the use of injection molding of an elastomer seal around the port. For the reasons stated above in regard to claim 27, it is believed this claim is also in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested in view of the above response.

Respectfully submitted,



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August 2, 2005
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